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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Settlement is a disgrace

The DOJ settlement with Microsoft is a disgrace and a blow to a strong, competitive American software industry.

As a result of years of Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior, dozens of quality applications and companies have been essentially destroyed including Lotus, Novell, WordPerfect, Corel, and Netscape. Several other companies, industries, and products are now on the list of future victims of Microsoft's monopoly including but not limited to: Real Networks, Eudora (email), Palm, Tivo, ReplayTV, and Handspring. The Web itself is now well on its way to being completely controlled by Microsoft software.

They have behaved illegally and this settlement rewards them for it. After years of illegal behavior there is absolutely nothing in the agreement that prevents them from continuing to behave illegally and nothing that punishes them for past behavior. Forcing them to donate software to underprivileged schools (who wouldn't have the money to buy it anyway) increases their market share and costs them nothing. It even affords them a PR opportunity.

In the face of the Government's inability to protect the software industry, we will continue to be faced with sub-standard software from Microsoft that is protected from competitors by their Windows monopoly and whose flaws permit serious security breaches on a daily basis. We will not see a credible competitor Word Processor, Email client, Web browser, Spreadsheet, or database application in the US. Meanwhile, the software industries in countries outside the US, some of which are shielded from the Windows monopoly (China, India) will grow as the result of talent and competition.

This settlement must be scuttled for our software industry to thrive. The only solution to this problem is to prevent Microsoft (structurally) from behaving in the way it has for the last 10+ years.

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